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**Louisiana Field Office**  
5825 Florida Blvd., PO Box 65038  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896  
(225) 922-1362

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**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

2005 Annual Livestock Slaughter  
Farms & Land in Farms

**Louisiana Annual Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during 2005 totaled 12.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from a year earlier.

There were 13,000 head of **cattle** slaughtered during 2005, down 5 percent from 2004. Average live weight per head, at 884 pounds, was up 19 pounds from the previous year. Total live weight at 11.5 million pounds was down 3 percent from a year earlier.

**Calves** slaughtered totaled 5,800 head during 2005, down 26 percent from the previous year. Live weight averaged 490 pounds per head, up 4 pounds from 2004. Total live weight was 2.85 million pounds, down 25 percent from a year earlier.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during 2005 totaled 21,000 head, down 8 percent from the previous year. Live weight averaged 190 pounds per head, down 8 pounds from 2004. Total live weight was 3.99 million pounds, down 12 percent from a year earlier.

**Sheep** slaughtered during 2005 totaled 1,700 head, unchanged from 2004. Live weight averaged 92 pounds per head, up 1 pound from a year earlier. Total live weight was 157,000 pounds, up 1 percent from 2004.

**United States Annual Livestock Slaughter**

**Red meat production** for the United States totaled 45.8 billion pounds in 2005, slightly higher than the previous year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 45.7 billion pounds. On farm production totaled 135 million pounds.

**Beef production**, at 24.8 billion pounds, slightly higher than the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 165 million pounds, down 6 percent from last year, setting a new record low.

**Pork production**, at 20.7 billion pounds, was slightly higher than the previous year, setting a new record high. Lamb and mutton production set a new record low, totaling 191 million pounds, 4 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

**Commercial cattle slaughter** during 2005 totaled 32.4 million head, down 1 percent from 2004, with federal inspection comprising 98.3 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,256 pounds, up 16 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 52.8 percent of the total federally inspected cattle slaughter, **heifers** 30.7 percent, **dairy cows** 7.1 percent, **other cows** 7.9 percent and **bulls** 1.6 percent.

**Commercial calf slaughter** totaled 734,400 head, down 13 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 353 pounds, up 23 pounds from a year earlier.

**Commercial hog slaughter** totaled 103.6 million head, slightly higher than 2004 with 99.0 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from last year, at 269 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.7 percent of the total federally inspected hog slaughter.

**Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter**, at 2.70 million head, was down 5 percent from 2004 with 94.7 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2004 to 138 pounds.

There were 806 plants slaughtering under federal inspection on January 1, 2006 compared with 826 last year. Of these, 657 plants slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2005 with the 13 largest plants slaughtering almost 54 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 630 plants, with the 13 largest plants accounting for slightly over 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 11 of the 227 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for nearly 79 percent of the total and 4 of the 496 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2005 comprised about 67 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas accounted for almost 53 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2005, similar to 2004.

**2005 Annual Louisiana Livestock Slaughter<sup>1</sup>**

Month	Cattle Slaughtered		Calves Slaughtered		Hogs Slaughtered		Sheep and Lambs Slaughtered		Red Meat Production <sup>2</sup>
	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Number of Head	Average Live Weight	Thousand Pounds
January	1,100	895	600	471	1,700	192	100	86	1,000
February	1,300	862	300	487	2,000	211	300	125	1,100
March	1,400	896	300	502	2,500	209	200	104	1,300
April	1,200	936	500	502	1,400	195	100	87	1,100
May	1,000	903	400	491	1,500	188	100	97	900
June	1,100	799	300	516	1,700	186	200	83	900
July	700	922	600	514	1,200	182	100	73	800
August	1,000	903	600	484	1,300	199	200	77	1,000
September	900	877	400	461	1,400	190	100	78	800
October	1,300	876	800	495	1,900	188	100	74	1,200
November	1,100	850	500	473	1,800	173	100	81	1,000
December	900	909	400	499	2,500	164	100	83	900
Year <sup>3</sup>	13,000	884	5,800	490	21,000	190	1,700	92	12,100

<sup>1</sup>Includes slaughter in federally inspected and other slaughter plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

<sup>2</sup>Includes total beef, veal, pork and lamb and mutton, excluding farm slaughter.

<sup>3</sup>Total may not add due to rounding.

## Number of Farms, Land in Farms and Average Farm Size by State and United States, 2003-2005<sup>1</sup>

Selected States	Number of Farms			Land in Farms			Average Farm Size		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	-----Number-----			-----1,000 Acres-----			-----Acres-----		
Alabama	45,000	44,000	43,500	8,900	8,750	8,600	198	199	198
Arkansas	47,500	47,500	47,000	14,400	14,400	14,400	303	303	306
Georgia	49,300	49,000	49,000	10,800	10,700	10,500	219	218	214
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>26,800</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>291</b>
Mississippi	42,800	42,200	42,200	11,110	11,050	11,050	260	262	262
Oklahoma	83,500	83,500	83,000	33,700	33,700	33,700	404	404	406
Texas	229,000	229,000	230,000	130,500	130,000	129,800	570	568	564
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,126,860</b>	<b>2,112,970</b>	<b>2,100,990</b>	<b>938,650</b>	<b>936,295</b>	<b>933,400</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>444</b>

<sup>1</sup>A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

### United States Farms and Land in Farms: 2005 Summary

The number of farms in the United States in 2005 is estimated at 2.10 million, 0.6 percent fewer than in 2004. Total land in farms, at 933.4 million acres, decreased 2.9 million acres, or 0.3 percent, from 2004. The average farm size was 444 acres during 2005, an increase of one acre from the previous year. The decline in the number of farms and land in farms reflects a continuing consolidation in farming operations and diversion of agricultural land to nonagricultural uses.

Farm numbers declined in the 3 smallest sales classes and rose in the 2 largest sales classes. Part of the decline in the smaller sales classes was due to normal attrition, such as retirements. In addition, some operations transferred to larger sales classes by enterprise expansion. However, the majority of the changes in the sales classes were likely due to rising incomes. Many farms and ranches near the top of their sales class in 2004 moved into the next higher sales class in 2005 without adding land or otherwise expanding their operations.

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Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038